WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node, comprising:

       generating a Real Time Streaming Protocol (RTSP) SET_PARAMETER message to said network node by a client application executing on a digital multimedia device, said message containing at least one of a playlist identifier, a media clip index and a clip offset as well as an indication of an activation time; and

       transferring digital multimedia content to said digital multimedia device by said network node from a particular content source identified by at least one of said playlist identifier and said media clip index, said transferring commencing at a time determined responsive to said indication of said activation time.

2.   The method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 1, wherein said RTSP SET_PARAMETER message is generated while said network node is streaming digital multimedia content to said digital multimedia device from a previously identified content source.

3.   The method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 2, wherein said previously identified content source comprises a media clip and said network node continues to stream from said media clip until said media clip's boundary is reached.

4.   The method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as recited in claim 2, wherein said previously identified content source comprises a media clip and said network node terminates streaming from said media clip substantially immediately upon receiving another SET_PARAMETER message from said client application.

1   5.   The method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as

2   recited in claim 1, wherein said network node returns a Normal Play Time (NPT) value to said

3   client application in response to said RTSP SET_PARAMETER message.

1   6.   The method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as

2   recited in claim 1, wherein said digital multimedia device accesses said network node over at

3   least one of a wireline network, a wireless network, and a cable network.

1   7.   The method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as

2   recited in claim 1, wherein said digital multimedia device comprises at least one of: digital

3   music players, digital video players, computers, and handheld communication devices enabled

4   to accept streaming media.

1   8.   The method for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as

2   recited in claim 1, wherein said activation time is operable to assume a value selected from

3   NOW, END OF CLIP, and END OF PLAYLIST.

1   9.   A system for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node,

2   comprising:

3   means associated with a client application executing on a digital multimedia device for

4   generating a Real Time Streaming Protocol (RTSP) SET_PARAMETER message to said

5   network node, said message containing at least one of a playlist identifier, a media clip index

6   and a clip offset as well as an indication of an activation time; and

7   means for transferring digital multimedia content to said digital multimedia device by

8   said network node from a particular content source identified by at least one of said playlist

9   identifier and said media clip index, said transferring commencing at a time determined

10   responsive to said indication of said activation time.

1   10.   The system for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as

2   recited in claim 9, wherein said RTSP SET_PARAMETER message is generated while said

3   network node is streaming digital multimedia content to said digital multimedia device from a

4   previously identified content source.

1   11.   The system for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as

2   recited in claim 10, wherein said previously identified content source comprises a media clip and

3   said network node continues to stream from said media clip until said media clip's boundary is

4   reached.

1   12.   The system for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as

2   recited in claim 10, wherein said previously identified content source comprises a media clip and

3   said network node terminates streaming from said media clip substantially immediately upon

4   receiving another SET_PARAMETER message from said client application.

1   13.   The system for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as

2   recited in claim 9, wherein said network node comprises means for returning a Normal Play

3   Time (NPT) value to said client application in response to said RTSP SET_PARAMETER

4   message.

1   14.   The system for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as

2   recited in claim 9, wherein said digital multimedia device accesses said network node over at

3   least one of a wireline network, a wireless network, and a cable network.

1   15.   The system for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as

2   recited in claim 9, wherein said digital multimedia device comprises at least one of: digital

3   music players, digital video players, computers, and handheld communication devices enabled

4   to accept streaming media.

1   16.   The system for retrieving digital multimedia content from a network node as

2   recited in claim 9, wherein said activation time is operable to assume a value selected from

3   NOW, END OF CLIP, and END OF PLAYLIST.

1   17.   A digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content from

2   a network node, comprising:

3   logic for generating a Real Time Streaming Protocol (RTSP) SET_PARAMETER

4   message to said network node by a client application executing on said digital multimedia

5   device, said message containing at least one of a playlist identifier, a media clip index and a clip

6   offset as well as an indication of an activation time; and

7   a player engine operable to play back streaming content from a particular content source

8   identified by at least one of said playlist identifier and said media clip index, said streaming

9   content commencing at a time determined responsive to said indication of said activation time.

1   18.   The digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content

2   from a network node as recited in claim 17, wherein said logic for generating said RTSP

3   SET_PARAMETER message includes logic for generating said message while said network

4   node is streaming digital multimedia content to said digital multimedia device from a previously

5   identified content source.

1   19.   The digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content

2   from a network node as recited in claim 18, wherein said previously identified content source

3   comprises a media clip and said network node continues to stream from said media clip until

4   said media clip's boundary is reached.

1   20.   The digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content

2   from a network node as recited in claim 18, wherein said previously identified content source

3   comprises a media clip and said network node terminates streaming from said media clip

4   substantially immediately upon receiving another SET_PARAMETER message from said client

5   application.

1   21.   The digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content

2   from a network node as recited in claim 17, wherein said network node includes logic for

3   returning a Normal Play Time (NPT) value to said client application in response to said RTSP

4   SET_PARAMETER message.

1   22.   The digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content

2   from a network node as recited in claim 17, further comprising means for accessing said

3   network node over at least one of a wireline network, a wireless network, and a cable network.

1   23.   The digital multimedia device operable to retrieve digital multimedia content

2   from a network node as recited in claim 17, wherein said activation time is operable to assume

3   a value selected from NOW, END OF CLIP, and END OF PLAYLIST.